Shortage of officers in Armed Forces

1212. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force) are suffering from acute shortage of officers;

(b) if so, over past five years, how many officers have sought a discharge/voluntary retirement, rank-wise;

(c) what were reasons for their disenhancement from Armed Forces;

(d) what is up-to-date position of vacancies in officers cadre, force-wise; and

(e) what steps are being taken to stop this exodus?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) There has been a shortage of officers in the Armed Forces for quite some time. The extent of shortage of officers in the Armed Forces is as follows:-

Army	Navy	Air Force
11387	1512	1400

During the last five years, 4300 officers of Army, 1177 officers of Air Force and 1096 officers of Navy have sought premature retirement/resignation. Premature retirement is considered on the grounds of non-empanelment, supersession, permanent low medical category and compassionate grounds.

A number of steps have been taken to motivate the service personnel to continue in service and to attract the talented youth to join the Armed Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of SSC officers has been increased from 10 years to 14 years. A total number of 750 posts of Lt. Colonel have been upgraded to Colonel towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-I). Further, 1896 additional posts in the ranks of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General and their equivalent in the other two Services have been upgraded towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-II). The implementation of recommendations of the VI Central Pay Commission with substantial improvements, in the pay structure of officers of Armed Forces will also go a long way in making the Services more attractive.

One rank one pension to Ex-servicemen

1213. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has promised to ex-servicemen one rank one pension;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken so far to keep the promise; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The Government had promised to examine the One Rank One Pension issue within a specified timeframe.

(b) and (c) Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary to look into the issue of One Rank One Pension and related issues has submitted its report recommending the following benefits to substantially improve the pension for the Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) and Commissioned Officers:-

(i) Inclusion of Classification Allowance for PBOR from 1.1.2006.

(ii) Removal of linkage of full pension with 33 years from 1.1.2006.

(iii) Revision of Lieutenant General pension after carving out a separate pay scale for them.

(iv) Bringing parity between pension of pre and post 10.10.1997 PBOR pensioners and

(v) Further improving PBOR pensions based on award of Group of Ministers, 2006.

(vi) Broad banding of percentage of disability/war injury pension for pre 1.1.1996 disability/war injury pension and removal of cap on war injury element of pension in the case of disabled pensioners belonging to Category E.

Recommendation of Rama Rao Committee on DRDO

1214. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently set up a Committee to go into the recommendation of the Rama Rao Committee and suggest restructuring of the DRDO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the recommendations of the Rama Rao Committee have been accepted by the Government; and

(d) whether DRDO has not achieved the target of research in the past few years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government, under the Chairmanship of Defence Secretary, has recently constituted a committee to look into the responses and suggestions made by the various stake holders on the recommendations of Rama Rao Committee.

(d) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has equipped Armed Forces with state-of-the-art technologies in the field of strategic systems, electronic warfare and communication systems, combat vehicles, armour and armaments, naval systems, life support systems, missile systems, etc. During the past, DRDO has developed a number of systems/technologies/products worth about Rs.60,000 crore, which have been/are being inducted into Armed Forces. There has been delays in some of the DRDO projects due to some genuine